

Application No. 10/602,872

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to syntax errors in paragraph [0035] of the specification. The required corrections have been made and the Examiner is requested to withdraw his objections to the specification.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to syntax errors in the claims. The required corrections have been made and the Examiner is requested to withdraw his objections to the claims.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112. Each of the problems identified by the Examiner has been addressed in the foregoing amendments. If a dependent claim requiring correction has been incorporated into an independent claim the problems identified by the Examiner were corrected before the incorporation was made.

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. Such amendments have been made so claims 15 and 16 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 20 – 25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 is now equivalent in scope to claim 20 and claims 21 – 25 depend from amended claim 17. Claims 17 and 21 – 25 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

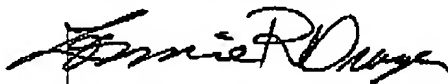
In paragraph 9 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 8, 9 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant feels that including all of the limitations of claim 8 and the intervening claims in independent claim 1 would be a narrower claim than applicant is entitled to. While many of those limitations are now in amended claim 1, the inclusion in claim 1 of the limitation that "as the airbag cover is being coupled with the housing member (i) the cover will deform elastically as it rides over the ramp portions of the hooks, (ii) the leading edge of the cover will engage the retainers and be compressed until the openings in the cover receive respective hooks of the housing and (iii) when the cover is released the cover can react against the retainers, and expand between the hooks and retainers to capture the cover between the hooks and the retainers" complies with the Examiner's reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Lang et al. does not teach that the housing member should have a peripheral wall or that the hooks and retainers should be staggered as required by amended claim 1. Nelson et al. does not

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teach or suggest the way the requirement of amended claim 1 of what occurs as the airbag cover is coupled with the housing member. At column 7, lines 26 – 46 Nelson et al. actually teach away from applicant's amended claim 1 by teaching that a "tensile pull" is required to properly assemble the airbag module disclosed in that publication.

It is believed that the application is now in form and condition for allowance and such action by the examiner is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,



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